

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 20, 2022

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and
abounding in kindness.

— Psalm 103:8

LOVE AS GOD LOVES

Our Gospel today continues Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, in which we heard Luke's version of the Beatitudes. This week, Jesus gives us new "commandments," telling us how to live and act in the world as his disciples, rooted in the radical love of God for humanity. It reminds us of his later speech about loving one another as he loves us, in other words with a God-like love, the kind we see in today's psalm about God's mercy. How else could we do as Jesus tells us by loving our enemies, which seems impossible, until we remember that God gave us the example of Jesus, who is like God but also like us? David understands this merciful love when he spares the life of his enemy in the first reading. Finally, Paul tells us that we will become like Jesus if we act as he did, as God does.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What can I do this week that is pleasing to God?

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16
Sunday: Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Peter Damian; Presidents' Day
Tuesday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle;
Washington's Birthday
Wednesday: St. Polycarp
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of February offerings: PLEASE put in Mass collection box or mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. 2/13: \$1400. 2/20: Capital Expenditures. 2/27: Rural Food. 3/02: Church in Central & Eastern Europe.



Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: Tues. 3/01/22, at 3:30pm on Zoom
Liturgy Committee [LC]: Fri., 4/01/22, at 9:45am in Hall
St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule 2022

2/19 Sat. 5pm Mass ✠ Bob Tiller
2/20 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Hugh Peterson
2/20 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Patrick McManus
2/20 Sun. 11:15am Mass Papke family; ✠ Deborah Marcellus
2/26 Sat. 5pm Mass
2/27 Sun. 8am Mass Katie Screes
2/27 Sun. 9:30am Mass for the People
2/27 Sun. 11:15am Mass ✠ John Hart

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Sherry S., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James G., Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., River M.; Nikkie; Mr. C., Michelle, Christian A., Samantha S., Gary E., Frederick Kasl

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for February 2022

Tuesday, February 8, brought lots of warm sunshine and 60 families (136 individuals) who were all smiles as they selected fresh produce, milk, eggs, poultry, beef, fish or vegetarian items, commodities, snacks and bread, including a wonderful selection from our local Wildflour Bakery and some sweet kiwi fruit from a local resident's garden. Clients broke out into more smiles as each was presented with Valentine roses, a donation from our volunteers. We continue to have an increase in attendance each month. All are welcome to receive nutritional support from our Program. We are collecting jackets and sweatshirts for our clients-see separate notice in this bulletin.

We have opened the hall to in-person shopping for clients who follow COVID guidelines while inside. This allows clients to be selective in choosing specific foods from our program for their families. If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information and to answer your questions.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.. RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in Parish Hall /parking area: Saturday, March 5, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, March 7, 9:00 - 11:00am set up; Tuesday, March 8, 7:30-11:00am distribution .



Harry Barris, Bing Crosby, and Al Rinker

To hear those three little words, that's all I'd live for the rest of my days . . .

(as sung by [the Rhythm Boys](#))

Are you the same person you were twenty or forty years ago? Yes and no! Frankly the person I was in 1970 was not the person I was in 1955 nor was the person I was in 1995 the person I am today. Changes happen that make one conclude you won't be exactly who you presently are this time next year. I mean will we ever again be the persons we were before this pandemic took over – will Sonoma as a town be the same? Things change.

Saint Paul says as much in today's second reading. Using the biblical character Adam as his example – Adam starts out as a "living being" but ends up "a life-giving spirit" – transitions from earthly to heavenly. Time after time things happen which can transform us into ever more knowledgeable, even expansive human beings.

Sometimes it takes a shock for such a change to happen. After I had finished my long training – from age fifteen to twenty seven – to become ordained, I was sent on to graduate school; three more years of study! Naturally I dragged my feet. I handed in at the start of my first semester a shoddy term paper on a biblical topic.

Next day I received a phone call from my professor, Ed Siegman, a very strict fellow to whom I will forever be indebted. His message was brief: "If this is the effort you intend to make in my class, then why don't you just drop out and stop wasting my time and yours!" To be brief: I changed on the spot. It's not that I

changed in any radical way but I was embarrassed enough to become a serious student. See what I mean?


My guess is that today's first reading may have been selected from the Hebrew Testament to set up the David of old as merciful in sparing the life of his pursuer King Saul. Actually that would be quite a change in David considering that he had no hesitancy to kill while fighting the Philistines or his rivals. I mean, people used to sing: "Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands." Also, was it mercy that motivated David or his hope that Saul would return the favor and allow David to return – no longer outlawed – but a favored son-in-law? Self interest?

In Luke's reading today Christ would have us love in terms of the Greek term agape – not so much eros (sheer passion) or philia (mere friendship) but, as one scholar defines agape: a gracious, determined, and active interest in the true welfare of others, which is not deterred even when it gets responses like hatred, cursing and abuse. Nor is it limited by any calculation on the lover's part of any deserts or results he or she may expect in return but radiates out of the very nature of God as lover of all creation – with no exceptions. Nor does even that do the term justice. And it seems hard to find nowadays – at least in the media – where public life is a perpetual tennis match of potentially lethal consequences between the yeas and nays.



--Geoff Wood, 2/20/22

Rural Food Program Volunteers are collecting sweatshirts and jackets for our clients. Child and adult sizes are needed. Please leave your donation of jackets and sweatshirts in the marked bins at the back of either church until Sunday, March 6. We will distribute the items to our Rural Food clients on March 8.



Clothing Donation

Liturgy note:
If you have some at home, bring prior years' holy palms back to church soon, to be recycled into ashes before this year's Ash Wednesday service. Thank you.